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Basham Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 6, 2008

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Basham Joins Governor Granholm for Signing of Great Lakes Compact

Basham Legislation Part of Package Creating Historic New Protections for Great Lakes

ANN ARBOR—Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) joined Governor Jennifer M. Granholm on Monday for a ceremonial signing of the Great Lakes Compact at the Gallup Park Canoe Livery on the Huron River in Ann Arbor. The historic water protection package that she signed into law in July protects Great Lakes waters from large scale withdrawals and diversions outside our region. Sen. Basham's bill in the new package, Senate Bill 727, increases the regulatory oversight of water bottlers by strengthening the permit threshold.

"This legislation works to balance the varied public and commercial interests in our freshwater in a way that ensures they will continue to be conserved for all to enjoy," said Basham. "By instituting tougher standards for withdrawals, we can make sure that no one user can disrupt the ecological and recreational use of our Great Lakes, and I thank the Governor for her swift action."

The legislation signed Monday:

- Bans diversions, with very limited exceptions, from Michigan waters and the Great Lakes and enacts the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact;
- Establishes a regulatory standard which provides that no one may create an adverse resource impact from a new or increased removal of 100,000 gallons of water per day, including removal of groundwater;
- Contains special additional protections for thermally-sensitive trout streams;
- Continually ensures that the best scientific data is utilized to assess the impact of water withdrawals on both groundwater and surface water.

Under Basham's bill, bottlers pumping more than 200,000 gallons per day will be subject to the new water rules. Basham's legislation also allows for public involvement in the permit process for each withdrawal over 200,000 gallons per day.

Following the passage of the Compact in all eight Great Lakes states, including Michigan with Granholm's signature, the U.S. Senate passed the Compact by unanimous consent on August 1, 2008. Congressman John D. Dingell, a long-time champion for Michigan's natural resources, joined Senator Basham and the Governor for the bill signing and will work with his colleagues in Washington to make sure the Compact passes the U.S. House of Representatives promptly. It then heads to

President Bush, who has said recently that he will sign the agreement.

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